United Nations A/55/813–S/2001/183

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
28 February 2001

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 11
Report of the Security Council

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 27 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward a letter addressed to you from the President of the Ukraine, H.E. Mr. Leonid D. Kuchma, dated 26 February 2001 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council, and of the General Assembly under agenda item 11 of its fifty-fifth session.

(*Signed*) Valeriy **Kuchynsky**
Ambassador
Acting Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 27 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Letter dated 26 February 2001 from the President of Ukraine addressed to the Secretary-General

On 1 March 2001, Ukraine is assuming the Presidency of the United Nations Security Council — the body which bears a great part of responsibility for the hopes that the peoples of the planet place on the role of the world Organization in building a better world. Ukraine has always attached special significance to the Charter powers of the Security Council, and has consistently taken a firm stand on enhancing its authority as a nucleus of the collective security system and a unique mechanism of the maintenance of international peace.

Ukraine considers its current membership in the Security Council, which coincides with the first decade of its restored national independence, as an international recognition of the correctness of its foreign policy course. It is also a manifestation of high confidence placed in Ukraine by the international community. Ukraine is determined to live up to these expectations to the full extent, and this includes the special responsibility assumed by our country in discharging the duties of a non-permanent member of the Security Council.

The active position of Ukraine's diplomacy within the Council's decision-making process is further strengthened by a concrete contribution to the implementation of its decisions. Today, Ukrainian peacekeepers participate in almost every peacekeeping operation which has been established or expanded during our membership in the Security Council. They contribute to maintaining peace in all parts of our planet — in the Balkans and in the Middle East, in Asia and in Africa. Today, Ukraine occupies the seventh position in the world and the first among European countries in terms of the number of its peacekeepers carrying out their noble mission under the United Nations flag.

Ukraine attaches particular importance to preserving the key role of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and to strengthening the Council's capabilities in this area. The important commitments made by the Security Council at its summit meeting in September 2000 attested to the Council's willingness to remain an effective instrument for protecting the state, society and the individual from security threats in the world of the twenty-first century.

Paying greater attention to the social and economic root causes of conflicts; attaching priority to the efforts aimed at preventing outbursts of violence; creating more consistent policy aimed at increasing the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations; improving guidelines and mechanisms for the use of enforcement measures, especially economic sanctions; bringing about comprehensive reform, including a more democratic decision-making process; enhancing cooperation with other United Nations principal organs, especially with the General Assembly: these are all areas in which achieving substantial progress is an indispensable prerequisite for ensuring an effective role for the Security Council in the changing world.

At a time when Ukraine is getting ready to take on the responsible and honourable mission of the Presidency of the Security Council, I would like to

reiterate my country's determination to contribute further to the strengthening of the United Nations and to demonstrate by concrete deeds its commitment to the high purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter

(*Signed*) Leonid D. **Kuchma**
President of Ukraine